



Leigh Academy  
**Bearsted**



# Prospectus

Where ambition knows no bounds,  
making every moment count

## Leigh Academy Bearsted is part of Leigh Academies Trust



Leigh Academies Trust is one of the country's largest and most-established multi-academy trusts operating across Kent, Medway and South East London. It contains primary, secondary and special academies and is highly inclusive and successful. Our mission is to deliver "education for a better world" by ensuring that young people in our academies have an excellent start in life regardless of their background or ability.

### Our Values

#### We care -

about our pupils and their families through our human scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the world around us, driven by our high ideals and strong moral values.

#### We have boundless ambition -

to achieve excellence for all and create confident young adults with high levels of resilience and integrity.

#### We work together -

as one team because we are greater than the sum of our parts. We foster an enterprising culture through global collaboration with partners in business and education.

#### We keep getting better -

using our 'can-do' attitude and research informed approach to continuous improvement and innovation.

For admission enquiries telephone:  
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# Welcome



‘We are so proud to be part of Leigh Academy Bearsted and the journey of the school. Our daughter has settled so well and loves coming to school every day.’

Parent

Where ambition knows no bounds, making every moment count

A very warm welcome to Leigh Academy Bearsted. We are a very new academy but we have achieved so much already, despite opening in a pandemic.

We started with one Nursery and two Reception classes and then expanded to include a mixed Year 1 and 2 class. So, it is really exciting to have almost doubled in size and to now include KS2.

As a new academy, we are very fortunate to have a spacious, attractive and modern building. Inside, we have well resourced classrooms that foster challenging and independent learning . Outside, we have an expansive field, MUGA, trim trail area and developing Forest School provision. The Early Years classes have their own outdoor areas allowing them to continue their learning and development in a safe, purposeful environment.

A broad and balanced curriculum is at the heart of an aspirational and successful school. To enhance our curriculum delivery, we are currently a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP). This is an inquiry led framework that fosters independent learners and posits personal success as essential for academic achievement, fostering independent learners who continue to thrive.

We would love to meet you, so please contact us to arrange a visit and see for yourself.

Mrs Jane Tipple  
Principal

# Introduction

Leigh Academy Bearsted, which opened in September 2020, became the latest addition to the highly successful Leigh Academies Trust (LAT), whose mission is to shape lives and transform communities, providing an education which nurtures and cares for all learners in order for them to achieve excellence and to create confident children with high levels of resilience and integrity, preparing them for their future.

As a brand new school we look forward to welcoming two new reception classes of up to 30 pupils per class, to join our current Reception cohort, totalling 120 pupils. Each year we will continue to grow our academy with two reception classes until we reach full capacity of 420 pupils across Years R-6 in September 2026.



In addition to our academy we have our own nursery, Little Bears, for children between the ages of 3-5 years which can take up to 26 pupils per session.

From their first day of school we will prepare our children for the next stage in their lives by focusing on delivering our Key Principles:

- Developing independence
- Creating collaborative learning experiences
- Encouraging risk-taking
- Promoting self-belief
- Developing strong communication skills
- Ensuring academic achievement

In order to provide facilities and support for our families we provide 'wrap around care' which includes an academy led breakfast club and after school supervised care for our working parents. This is in addition to our full programme of extra-curricular enrichment clubs.

We believe in building strong partnerships with parents and carers, working closely together to ensure all of our learners succeed. We take pride in developing positive working relationships, not only between pupils and teachers, but also between the academy and home in order to achieve our aspirational values and vision.

'Thank you to all the staff at Leigh Academy Bearsted for everything they've done in the first term, it's been quite the start to any school year, but you've given my child and all of the children in the school the very best and we couldn't be happier with our choice of Primary School. We feel confident that our child will have an outstanding experience and continue to be nurtured and supported throughout their education and Leigh Academy Bearsted will give them the very best opportunities.'

Parent



# Where ambition knows no bounds...



## Our VISION

At Leigh Academy Bearsted (BPA), we believe that all children deserve the right to a first class education which is exciting, challenging, engaging, ambitious and boundless. Every child, irrespective of need, starting point or background, is entitled to an enriched, varied and personalised education, which allows them to have a greater understanding of the world around them, provides them with a variety of opportunities and experiences which support the development of a wide range of skills, maximises the potential of every child and equips them ready for the future.

Our dedicated staff are fully committed to providing a rich, broad and balanced curriculum within a nurturing and supportive environment, celebrating each personal achievement and goal our children achieve on their journey through school. We at BPA are dedicated to delivering an education which has our children at the heart of it, maximises the potential for all and supports the growth of children who are resilient, confident, determined, enthusiastic and have a desire to be lifelong learners with a hunger to know more.

From the very first day, we inspire our learners to explore their interests and go beyond what they already know and have been taught, to seek out what

they do not yet know, encouraging natural enquiry and a hunger for knowledge. As an academy family we work together to achieve success and develop a true sense of belonging, involving all partners within our learning community. Our belief in 'human scale' education, means every one of our students is known and valued and a great importance is placed on building strong partnerships with parents, carers and the community whom we serve.

At Leigh Academy Bearsted we aspire to provide a quality of education and care, from Nursery through to Year 6, and which goes well beyond this. Literacy and numeracy will always be at the core and, alongside this, is the ambition to provide young people with a well-rounded and full educational experience which develops all of their talents.

All Leigh Academies Trust schools have a child-centred approach to decision-making. Learning spaces are warm, welcoming and inviting and take a 21st Century approach to education. The emphasis is on working with families from the outset and developing the whole child.

Strong pastoral care and a commitment to human-scale education will be central to the work we do at Bearsted Primary. All youngsters, and especially those considered vulnerable, will feel safe and well cared for. That care will extend to children's immediate families, who play a pivotal role in the success of those children. Combined with the highest quality of classroom teaching, pupils will benefit academically, socially and emotionally, in order to enable them to cope with life's challenges and to become successful citizens who contribute to society.

At Leigh Academy Bearsted we strive to create a school community which is vibrant and pioneering. We want our children's primary school experience to be an unforgettable and inspirational journey where they are nurtured and valued.

Our aims as a school:

- To strive for academic excellence, ensuring all children progress to reach their full potential and use their experiences as the foundations for future success.
- To create a rich, vibrant and innovative curriculum which engages and motivates children. They will develop the skills of entrepreneurialism and adaptability to prepare them for their future. Real-life projects with exciting outcomes will make learning fun whilst also providing them with unforgettable experiences. Children will also be given opportunities to develop their talents and interests in academic subjects, the arts and sports.
- To develop a respect for each other and expect exceptional behaviour ensuring all children feel safe and happy. Every child will be treated fairly, equally and feel included in a caring community. Children will be proud of who they are and proud to be part of a school that embraces diversity and encourages individuality.

- To ensure we provide outstanding teachers who will teach exciting and inspiring lessons and ensure all children make excellent progress. Children will enjoy being challenged, be confident to take risks and persevere in their learning. Ambition will be encouraged and achievements will be celebrated.
- Parents will be welcomed and involved in school life. Staff will work in partnership with parents to ensure that children reach their full potential. Excellent communication with parents will keep them well-informed of their child's progress.

The children of Leigh Academy Bearsted remain at the heart of every decision we make, especially as we move forward and continue to grow as a school community. We ensure they are happy, confident and that the opportunities provided to them are relevant to their needs both now and in the future.

We endeavour to ensure our collective dreams and aspirations become the reality of tomorrow.

...making  
every  
moment  
count





# Our Curriculum

We ensure to make every moment count through an enriched and innovative curriculum that extends beyond the physical classroom and school day. Every child at Leigh Academy Bearsted is given the opportunity to explore and develop their strengths and to participate in new learning experiences.

Our curriculum is delivered through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) framework and the development of the IB Learner Profile attributes. This promotes collaborative and co-curricular learning opportunities and is delivered within relevant and purposeful contexts. It is built upon prior learning, and is designed to be challenging, interesting and motivational to all pupils.

## So what exactly is the International Baccalaureate?

*"... The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a not-for-profit foundation, motivated by its mission to create a better world through education"*

...The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect...



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# The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme



The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed for pupils aged 3 to 12 and is one of four programmes offered by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO).

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Organisation  
2018



The PYP focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. It is a framework guided by six transdisciplinary themes of global significance, explored using knowledge and skills derived from six subject areas, as well as transdisciplinary skills, with a powerful emphasis on inquiry.

The PYP is flexible enough to accommodate the demands of the National Curriculum as this is the curriculum that Leigh Academy Bearsted will follow. The PYP:

- Allows integrated development of cognitive and affective skills;
- Enables us to develop a curriculum appropriate to meet pupils learning needs;
- Develops autonomous and critical learners;
- Content is chosen by academies but is delivered within a concept driven curriculum to bring coherence across subjects; and
- Assessment drives learning and teaching positively.

Leigh Academy Bearsted is a Candidate School\* for the Primary Years Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Leigh Academy Bearsted believes is important for our students.

*\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)*

'Great school with  
great teachers.'

Parent

## Our Early Years Foundation Stage

In Early Years we work hard to ensure our pupils enter a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment, where children feel cared for and encouraged to achieve their full potential - no matter what their starting point.

We believe that Early Years education is fundamental to igniting a love and excitement for learning - it should be natural, fluid and inspiring for our children. We encourage children to be independent and to be involved in shaping their own learning and taking responsibility for it. Using the Curiosity Approach we teach through authentic and play-based activities - both in the indoor and outdoor spaces.

On a typical day our children are welcomed by their teacher at 8:30am - ready for an exciting day of adventures! Our school day involves a balance of carefully planned learning opportunities, alongside more independent play-based inquiries. Discovery time features heavily for our children - a time where they have the freedom to direct their learning and to discover the endless possibilities of the world around them. By using the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme as a framework to deliver learning, we can ensure that our children are global learners who make connections not only within their own learning, but also connect to the greater world in which they live in. Alongside the freedom of discovery, the children have daily phonics and maths teaching times.

Phonics at Bearsted follows the Letters and Sounds Programme. This whole class teaching time is designed to be fun and engaging for our children - allowing them time and space to learn the key

sounds in an active way - which will then build them up to be confident and competent readers and writers. Reading is an important part of your child's reception journey - as this is the year where reading comes alive for the very first time! At Bearsted we believe that high quality phonics teaching allows a true excitement of reading to be ignited. Children are empowered through their learning to discover that they can read - it is a truly magical moment that we are so proud to share in!

Another key part of the curriculum for our Reception children is our Maths mastery approach. Maths sessions are taught daily and are followed by opportunities for our children to put in place what they have learnt. We believe that Maths needs to be active and relevant in order for our children to become mathematically confident. We encourage the use of natural objects and loose parts in aiding our young learners to make sense of number and shape in the world around them, as well as the more traditional maths resources. Our learners are challenged to dive deeper into their understanding of number - ensuring a secure foundation for them to build upon as they move through school.

Our school day finishes at 3.00pm, when parents are welcomed onto the school site to collect their children. To support those families who may need additional child care, Wrap Around Care is available before and after school from 7:30am until 6:00pm. Here, children are able to have breakfast and tea as well as engage in a range of activities and games alongside their friends.

# The International Baccalaureate Learner Profile



The Learner Profile is at the heart of our curriculum and is integrated through every aspect of the curriculum, so that pupils have the opportunity to develop their personal and social attributes on a daily basis.

IB Programmes give structured opportunities for pupils to be:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

We are also fortunate to provide our children with a 'forest school' ethos and provision as part of our education. Our trained practitioners enable us to develop additional learning and development opportunities that enrich our curriculum offer for all age groups.

At Leigh Academy Bearsted we aim to create inquiring, lifelong learners who respect and care for the world they live in and all those who live in it. Our learners understand how they are connected to the world in order to take action to improve their own lives, and the lives of local and global communities, becoming global citizens themselves.





'Thank you so much for all the efforts and making the transition super easy for my son...honestly didn't think it would be that smooth but he enjoys every moment.'

Parent



We hope you've enjoyed reading through our Primary prospectus and we can't wait to hear from you!  
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# Further INFORMATION

Please visit our academy website

[Leigh Academy Bearsted](#)

## Virtual Open Event

Find out when our next open event is

[Visit our website](#)

## Admissions information

Please visit our admissions page to find out how to apply

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## School Uniform

Please visit us to see more information

[Visit our website](#)

## Kent Online article

Read Kent Online article about the opening of our academy

[Visit Kent Online article](#)



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Academies Trust

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